

Achieving Results Supporting Client Outcomes



GOAL: Continuously improve the organization's capacity to achieve outcomes for children and families

It was immediately evident that the little boy was having a difficult time seeing. When Patti went out to conduct a *KIDSCREEN** on four-year-old Jason and his sister in their new foster home, she noticed he sat mere inches from the television screen.

Patti tried to show the little boy a Praying Mantis that she observed outside and discovered that little Jason required a magnifying glass in order to make out any details of the curious insect.

Among Patti's recommendations to Jason's social worker was that he have his vision checked immediately.

Nicole, Jason's social worker, scheduled an ophthalmology appointment and when the doctor was finished with his examination, he concluded that Jason required glasses which magnified his vision TEN TIMES.

According to Jason's foster parent, the doctor stated that in another six months, Jason's vision could have been irreparably damaged...nothing would have saved his sight at that point.

Patti's prompt and accurate assessment and Nicole's fast action in obtaining needed medical help supported a family in providing for their foster child and no doubt helped to save a little boy's sight.

Together, they all helped a four-year-old little boy see the world clearly for the very first time.

*An initial physical, developmental, educational, family and behavioral assessment.

Supporting Client Outcomes

GOAL: Continuously improve the organization's capacity to achieve outcomes for children and families

The Children's Administration continuously works to improve the organization's capacity to improve outcomes for children and families. In the Children's Administration's Strategic Plan, the administration has identified numerous objectives and outcomes related to increasing this capacity, most of which are related to resource development or internal process improvement. A summary of the Children's Administration Strategic Plan goals, objectives, and outcomes is included in Appendix C.

One of the most important organizational objectives of the Children's Administration is "adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services, and adoption." The administration has been working to increase its capacity to provide services to children who remain in their own homes and to those who must be placed in out-of-home care. For the purposes of this report, the administration is currently tracking the following measures applicable to specific needs of children in out-of-home placement:

- Licensed foster homes available to care for children
- Availability of minority foster homes
- Foster care licensing applications which take more than 90 days to complete



Supporting Client Outcomes

OBJECTIVE: Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services and adoption

Measured by: Licensed foster homes available to care for children

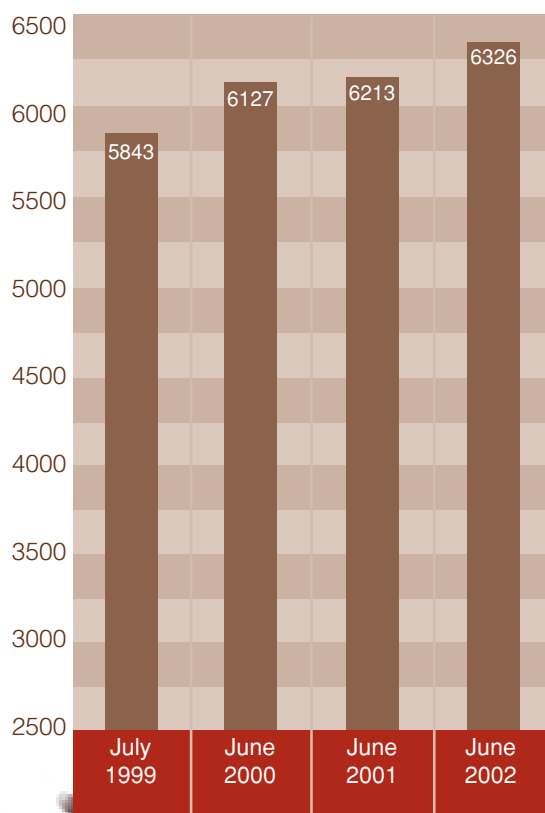
The Children's Administration Division of Licensed Resources strives to increase the number of homes licensed to care for children who must be placed in out-of-home care.

In Washington State, as in other states nationwide, the foster care system is faced with increasingly complex and difficult challenges, which has made it difficult to achieve this goal. Foster care is, of course, a critical element of the child welfare system.

The Children's Administration, in cooperation with Casey Family Programs, has begun implementation of a Foster Care Improvement Plan, which identifies specific goals for improving the foster care system. This plan sets the stage for a public-private commitment to create a system that will be responsive to foster parents and kinship caregivers. The plan recognizes the importance of staff, foster parents, local communities, schools, and community-based organizations. The plan also uses data to target retention and recruitment efforts, evaluate strategies for change, and guide continuous improvement to better meet the needs of the children it serves.

The number of foster homes available to care for children has steadily increased over the past four years as a direct result of increased recruitment and retention efforts.

Number of Licensed Foster Care Homes*



*Number of foster homes licensed to provide care



Supporting Client Outcomes

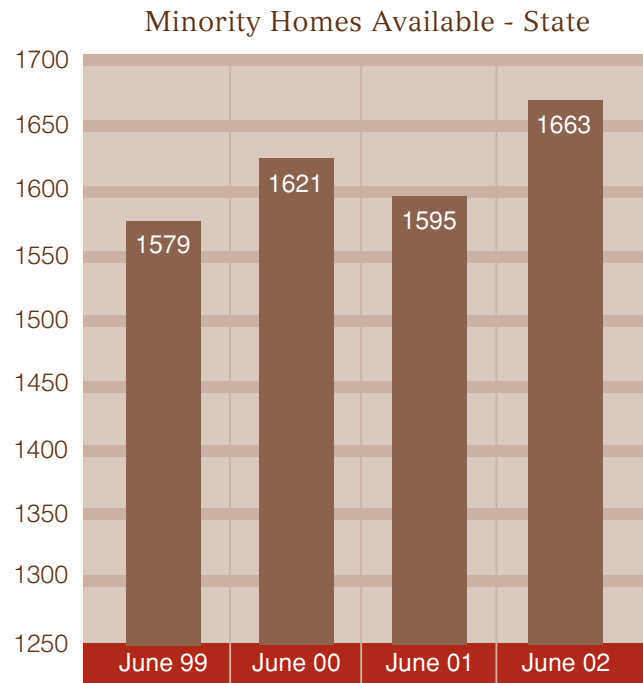
OBJECTIVE: Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services and adoption

Measured by: Availability of minority foster homes

The Children's Administration has made an effort to recruit diverse foster homes to provide resources that reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of those served. Increasing the number of minority homes has been very challenging, and the Foster Care Improvement Plan's emphasis upon foster home retention, recruitment and diversity may assist with this effort.

Focused recruitment and retention efforts have resulted in a considerable increase in the number of minority homes available to care for children.

The number of minority homes reflected in this report is based on the self-report of ethnicity by foster parents with the exception of Indian homes. Federal and state Indian Child Welfare regulations require the verification of Tribal enrollment and/or certification of Indian homes, which may result in reduced numbers.



*Number of minority foster homes licensed to provide care.



Supporting Client Outcomes

OBJECTIVE: Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services and adoption

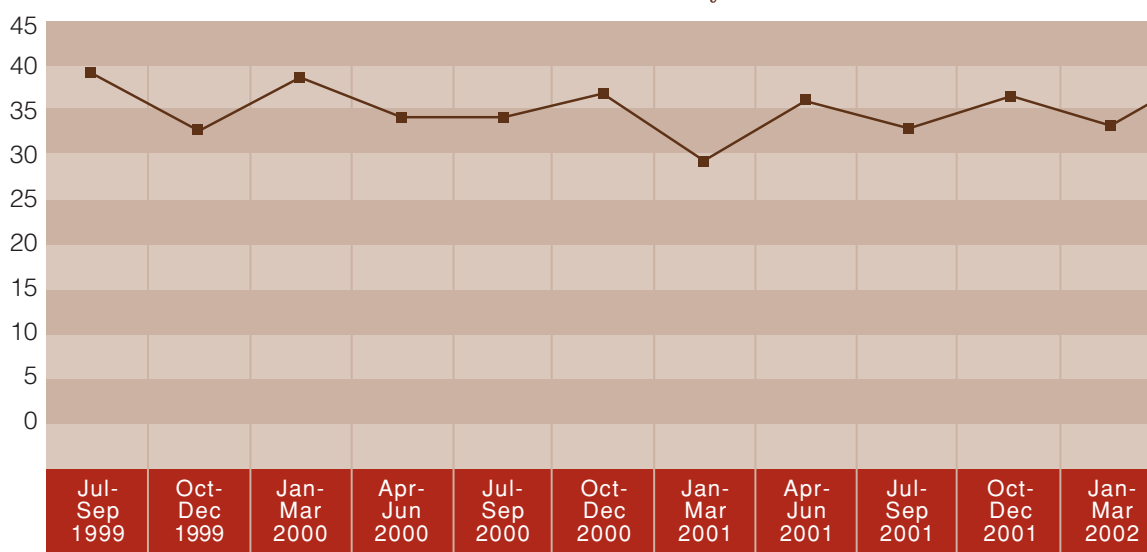
Measured by: Foster care licensing applications which take more than 90 days to complete

The Children's Administration is committed to timely processing of all applications for foster care home licensing in an effort to ensure that foster homes are available to the children who need them.

While licensing delays have varied minimally over the past four years, the Division of Licensed Resources achieved an overall reduction in the percent of licensing applications taking more than 90 days to complete.

Licensing delays are reported six months retroactively to allow for 90-day delay observations and 90-day reporting mandates, thus data for this measure does not include a percentage for the last quarter of the fiscal year.

Percent of Foster Home Licensing Applications
Which Take More than 90 Days to Process*



*The percent of foster care licensing applications that take more than 90 days to complete.

